

atories, or oral testimony provided under any civil investigative demand issued under subsection (a) shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5.

(l) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the term “false claims law” means—

(A) this section and sections 3729 through 3732; and

(B) any Act of Congress enacted after the date of the enactment of this section which prohibits, or makes available to the United States in any court of the United States any civil remedy with respect to, any false claim against, bribery of, or corruption of any officer or employee of the United States;

(2) the term “false claims law investigation” means any inquiry conducted by any false claims law investigator for the purpose of ascertaining whether any person is or has been engaged in any violation of a false claims law;

(3) the term “false claims law investigator” means any attorney or investigator employed by the Department of Justice who is charged with the duty of enforcing or carrying into effect any false claims law, or any officer or employee of the United States acting under the direction and supervision of such attorney or investigator in connection with a false claims law investigation;

(4) the term “person” means any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity, including any State or political subdivision of a State;

(5) the term “documentary material” includes the original or any copy of any book, record, report, memorandum, paper, communication, tabulation, chart, or other document, or data compilations stored in or accessible through computer or other information retrieval systems, together with instructions and all other materials necessary to use or interpret such data compilations, and any product of discovery;

(6) the term “custodian” means the custodian, or any deputy custodian, designated by the Attorney General under subsection (i)(1);

(7) the term “product of discovery” includes—

(A) the original or duplicate of any deposition, interrogatory, document, thing, result of the inspection of land or other property, examination, or admission, which is obtained by any method of discovery in any judicial or administrative proceeding of an adversarial nature;

(B) any digest, analysis, selection, compilation, or derivation of any item listed in subparagraph (A); and

(C) any index or other manner of access to any item listed in subparagraph (A); and

(8) the term “official use” means any use that is consistent with the law, and the regulations and policies of the Department of Justice, including use in connection with internal Department of Justice memoranda and reports; communications between the Department of Justice and a Federal, State, or local government agency, or a contractor of a Federal, State, or local government agency, undertaken in furtherance of a Department of

Justice investigation or prosecution of a case; interviews of any qui tam relator or other witness; oral examinations; depositions; preparation for and response to civil discovery requests; introduction into the record of a case or proceeding; applications, motions, memoranda and briefs submitted to a court or other tribunal; and communications with Government investigators, auditors, consultants and experts, the counsel of other parties, arbitrators and mediators, concerning an investigation, case or proceeding.

(Added Pub. L. 99-562, §6(a), Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3159; amended Pub. L. 111-21, §4(c), May 20, 2009, 123 Stat. 1623.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, referred to in subsecs. (b)(1)(B), (c)(2), (h)(1), and (j)(6), are set out in the Appendix to Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

The date of enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (l)(1)(B), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 99-562, which was approved Oct. 27, 1986.

#### AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 111-21, §4(c)(1)(A), in introductory provisions, inserted “, or a designee (for purposes of this section),” after “Whenever the Attorney General” and substituted “the Attorney General, or a designee, may, before commencing a civil proceeding under section 3730(a) or other false claims law, or making an election under section 3730(b),” for “the Attorney General may, before commencing a civil proceeding under section 3730 or other false claims law,” and, in concluding provisions, substituted “may delegate” for “may not delegate” and inserted at end “Any information obtained by the Attorney General or a designee of the Attorney General under this section may be shared with any qui tam relator if the Attorney General or designee determine it is necessary as part of any false claims act investigation.”

Subsec. (a)(2)(G). Pub. L. 111-21, §4(c)(1)(B), struck out at end “The Attorney General may not, notwithstanding section 510 of title 28, authorize the performance, by any other officer, employee, or agency, of any function vested in the Attorney General under this subparagraph.”

Subsec. (i)(2)(B). Pub. L. 111-21, §4(c)(2)(A), struck out “, who is authorized for such use under regulations which the Attorney General shall issue” after “Justice”.

Subsec. (i)(2)(C). Pub. L. 111-21, §4(c)(2)(B), struck out at end “Disclosure of information to any such other agency shall be allowed only upon application, made by the Attorney General to a United States district court, showing substantial need for the use of the information by such agency in furtherance of its statutory responsibilities.”

Subsec. (l)(8). Pub. L. 111-21, §4(c)(3), added par. (8).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-21 effective May 20, 2009, and applicable to conduct on or after May 20, 2009, except that this section, as amended by Pub. L. 111-21, applicable to cases pending on May 20, 2009, see section 4(f) of Pub. L. 111-21, set out as a note under section 3729 of this title.

### CHAPTER 38—ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES FOR FALSE CLAIMS AND STATEMENTS

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Sec.  |   |
| 3801. | Definitions.                            |
| 3802. | False claims and statements; liability. |
| 3803. | Hearing and determinations.             |
| 3804. | Subpoena authority.                     |

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Sec.   |  |
| 3805.  | Judicial review.                               |
| 3806.  | Collection of civil penalties and assessments. |
| 3807.  | Right to administrative offset.                |
| 3808.  | Limitations.                                   |
| 3809.  | Regulations.                                   |
| [3810. | Repealed.]                                     |
| 3811.  | Effect on other law.                           |
| 3812.  | Prohibition against delegation.                |

## AMENDMENTS

1995—Pub. L. 104-66, title III, §3001(c)(2), Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 734, struck out item 3810 “Reports”.

## § 3801. Definitions

(a) For purposes of this chapter—

(1) “authority” means—

- (A) an executive department;
- (B) a military department;
- (C) an establishment (as such term is defined in section 11(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978) which is not an executive department;
- (D) the United States Postal Service;
- (E) the National Science Foundation; and
- (F) a designated Federal entity (as such term is defined under section 8G(a)(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978);

(2) “authority head” means—

- (A) the head of an authority; or
- (B) an official or employee of the authority designated, in regulations promulgated by the head of the authority, to act on behalf of the head of the authority;

(3) “claim” means any request, demand, or submission—

(A) made to an authority for property, services, or money (including money representing grants, loans, insurance, or benefits);

(B) made to a recipient of property, services, or money from an authority or to a party to a contract with an authority—

(i) for property or services if the United States—

- (I) provided such property or services;
- (II) provided any portion of the funds for the purchase of such property or services; or
- (III) will reimburse such recipient or party for the purchase of such property or services; or

(ii) for the payment of money (including money representing grants, loans, insurance, or benefits) if the United States—

- (I) provided any portion of the money requested or demanded; or
- (II) will reimburse such recipient or party for any portion of the money paid on such request or demand; or

(C) made to an authority which has the effect of decreasing an obligation to pay or account for property, services, or money,

except that such term does not include any claim made in any return of tax imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(4) “investigating official” means an individual who—

(A)(i) in the case of an authority in which an Office of Inspector General is established

by the Inspector General Act of 1978 or by any other Federal law, is the Inspector General of that authority or an officer or employee of such Office designated by the Inspector General;

(ii) in the case of an authority in which an Office of Inspector General is not established by the Inspector General Act of 1978 or by any other Federal law, is an officer or employee of the authority designated by the authority head to conduct investigations under section 3803(a)(1) of this title; or

(iii) in the case of a military department, is the Inspector General of the Department of Defense or an officer or employee of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense who is designated by the Inspector General; and

(B) who, if a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty, is serving in grade O-7 or above or, if a civilian employee, is serving in a position for which the rate of basic pay is not less than the minimum rate of basic pay for grade GS-16 under the General Schedule;

(5) “knows or has reason to know”, for purposes of establishing liability under section 3802, means that a person, with respect to a claim or statement—

- (A) has actual knowledge that the claim or statement is false, fictitious, or fraudulent;
- (B) acts in deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity of the claim or statement; or
- (C) acts in reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the claim or statement,

and no proof of specific intent to defraud is required;

(6) “person” means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or private organization;

(7) “presiding officer” means—

(A) in the case of an authority to which the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5 apply, an administrative law judge appointed in the authority pursuant to section 3105 of such title or detailed to the authority pursuant to section 3344 of such title; or

(B) in the case of an authority to which the provisions of such subchapter do not apply, an officer or employee of the authority who—

(i) is selected under chapter 33 of title 5 pursuant to the competitive examination process applicable to administrative law judges;

(ii) is appointed by the authority head to conduct hearings under section 3803 of this title;

(iii) is assigned to cases in rotation so far as practicable;

(iv) may not perform duties inconsistent with the duties and responsibilities of a presiding officer;

(v) is entitled to pay prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management independently of ratings and recommendations made by the authority and in accordance with chapter 51 of such title and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title;